



# *Milwaukee County*

Supervisor Patricia Jursik, Dist. 8

Chair, Economic and Community Development Committee

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## **SUPERVISOR JURSIK CRITIZICES COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S VETO OF PUBLIC LAND SALE RESOLUTION**

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Board Supervisor Patricia Jursik, District 8, released the following statement regarding the County Executive's veto of the resolution clarifying the Milwaukee County land sale process:

"In the county executive's veto message delivered with the Land Sale Resolution, the executive stated, 'Since taking office last year I have worked hard to grow economic development opportunities for Milwaukee County.' Clearly, the executive confuses a land sale ordinance with doing economic development. Since the county is not in the business of selling land, we do so only when lands are identified as surplus.

"The county does not look for assets to dole out to business to develop and to make a profit. When the county sells the people's real estate, it often must consider what private developers would never do from a strict profit motive. Policy-makers may need to preserve historic sites, public trust doctrine sites, deed restricted park lands, right-of-way concerns and myriads of others including butterfly habitats.

"The land sales ordinance that the board developed sets these policies at the outset that will help clarify for developers what must be considered. Once this is understood, the executive staff can deal professionally with potential developers, most already knowing that public purposes do not equate to the private deals that they can do without the kind of oversight required in the public arena.

"Whether developers are ever happy to work with government may be in the eyes of the beholder, but the land sales ordinance developed by the board at least clarifies the process allowing any real estate professional an up-front look at what will be required. Most professionals appreciate this from the outset. This clarity and predictability will result in sound public policy outlined in the proposed land sales ordinance. My office is happy to continue to work with Mr. Taffora, Economic Development Director, in refining the land sales ordinance to accomplish this task."

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